AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-26 as indicated below.

1.   (Currently Amended)   A process for collecting machine identifying information associated with a digital online access device used for substantially anonymously accessing a host computer system over a digital network, said host computer system generating an interaction record of an access therewith by said access device, and said process comprising the steps of:

(a)   capturing a machine fingerprint that identifies identifying profile parameter upon said access device accessing said host computer system wherein said machine fingerprint comprises a hashed attribute string that is a concatenation of attributes associated with said access device;

(b)   generating a unique interaction identification string upon said access device accessing said host computer system;

(c)   associating said interaction identification string with said machine fingerprintprofile parameter; and

(d)   associating said interaction identification string with said interaction record generated upon said access device accessing said host computer system.

2.   (Currently Amended)   A process as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising wherein said capturing step includes the step of:

(a)   capturing a digital address of said access device on said digital network.

3.   (Currently Amended)   A process as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said hashed attribute string comprisescapturing step includes the step of:

(a)   capturing a configuration setting of said access device.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 1 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>~~and including the steps of~~:

(a) communicating a self-identification routine to said access device upon said access device accessing said host computer system;

(b) said access device executing said self-identification routine;

(c) said self-identification routine querying a configuration setting of said access device to derive said <u>machine fingerprint</u>~~profile parameter~~; and

(d) said self-identification routine communicating said ~~profile parameter~~ <u>machine fingerprint</u> to a remote location for association with said interaction identification string.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 1 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>~~and including the steps of~~:

(a) said host system operating a host web site including an interaction page generated by interaction page code processed by said access device upon accessing said host web site; and

(b) coding, within said interaction code, a self-identification routine which causes said access device to communicate said <u>machine fingerprint</u> ~~profile parameter~~ when said access device processes said interaction page code.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 3 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>~~and including the step of~~:

(a) coding said self-identification routine in such a manner that said ~~profile parameter~~ <u>machine fingerprint</u> and said interaction identification string are communicated to a third party web site at which said <u>machine fingerprint</u> ~~profile~~ ~~parameter~~ and said interaction identification string are stored.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for identifying a customer computer involved in an online transaction between a customer using a customer browser operating on said customer computer and a merchant operating a merchant web site, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing a <u>machine fingerprint of a</u> customer computer ~~profile parameter~~ upon said customer computer accessing said merchant web site <u>wherein said machine fingerprint comprises a hashed attribute string associated with one or more attributes of said customer computer</u>;

(b) generating a transaction identification string and associating said string with said <u>machine fingerprint</u>~~parameter~~;

(c) storing said <u>machine fingerprint</u> ~~parameter~~ and said <u>transaction identification</u> string in a machine data archive;

(d) upon said customer completing a transaction through said merchant web site, storing said transaction identification string with a transaction record formed during said transaction to thereby associate said <u>machine fingerprint</u> ~~parameter~~ with said transaction record through said <u>transaction identification</u> string.

8. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 7 <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein said capturing step includes the step of~~:

(a) capturing an IP address of said customer computer.

9. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said <u>machine fingerprint comprises</u>~~capturing step includes the step of~~:

~~(a) capturing~~ a configuration setting of said customer computer.

10. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 7 <u>comprising</u>~~and including the step of~~:

(a) communicating said <u>machine fingerpring</u> ~~profile parameter~~ and said transaction identification string to a third party web site for storage.

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11. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 7 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the step of:

(a) causing said customer computer to communicate said ~~profile~~ ~~parameter~~ <u>machine fingerprint</u> and said transaction identification string to a third party web site for storage.

12. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 7 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the steps of:

(a) communicating a self-identification routine to said customer computer upon said customer computer accessing said merchant web site;

(b) said customer computer executing said self-identification routine;

(c) said self-identification routine querying a configuration setting of said customer computer to derive said <u>machine fingerprint</u>~~profile parameter~~; and

(d) said self-identification routine communicating said <u>machine</u> <u>fingerprint</u> ~~profile parameter~~ to a remote location for association with said interaction identification string.

13. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 12 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the step of:

(a) coding said self-identification routine in such a manner that said <u>machine fingerprint</u> ~~profile parameter~~ and said interaction identification string are communicated to a third party web site at which said profile parameter and said interaction identification string are stored.

14. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said querying step <u>further comprises</u>~~includes the steps of~~:

(a) querying said customer browser for a plurality of configuration settings;

(b) forming an attribute string from said plurality of configuration settings; and

(c) <u>hashing</u> ~~processing~~ said attribute string to form said <u>machine</u> <u>fingerprint</u> ~~profile parameter~~ of said customer computer.

15. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said customer computer potentially accesses said merchant web site by way of a proxy, and said communicating step <u>further comprises</u>~~includes the steps of~~:

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(a) communicating said ~~machine fingerprint~~ profile parameter and said transaction identification string to said remote web site using a protocol which bypasses said proxy.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for identifying a customer computer involved in an online transaction through a merchant web site between a customer using a customer browser operating on said customer computer and a merchant who operates said web site, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) coding a script request within a transaction form of said merchant web site;

(b) processing said script request by said customer browser upon accessing said merchant web site to thereby communicate to an archiver web site of a machine data archiving service an electronic request for a machine data collection script;

(c) said archiver web site returning said script to said customer browser along with a unique transaction identification string;

(d) said customer browser processing said script to thereby cause said script to query said customer computer for a machine fingerprint ~~profile parameter~~ of said customer computer wherein said machine fingerprint comprises a hashed attribute string associated with one or more attributes of said customer computer;

(e) said script causing said customer browser to communicate said machine fingerprint ~~profile parameter~~ and said transaction identification string to said archiver web site;

(f) said archiver web site storing said machine fingerprint ~~profile parameter~~ and said transaction identification string in a machine data profile;

(g) said script causing said customer browser to write said transaction identification string into said transaction form; and

(h) upon said customer adding customer identification information to said transaction form and electronically submitting said transaction form to said merchant web site to thereby comprise a transaction record, said transaction identification string associating said transaction record with said machine data profile.

17. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 16 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the steps of:

(a) said script causing said computer browser to communicate said <u>machine fingerprint</u> profile parameter and said transaction identification string along with a conventional hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) header; and

(b) said archiver service additionally storing said HTTP header in association with said machine data profile.

18. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 16 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the step of:

(a) said script querying said customer browser for a configuration setting thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 16 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the steps of:

(a) said script querying said customer browser for a plurality of configuration settings;

(b) said script forming an attribute string from said plurality of configuration settings; and

(c) said script processing said attribute string to form said <u>machine</u> <u>fingerprint</u> profile parameter of said customer computer.

20. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 19 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>wherein said script processing step includes the step of:

(a) said script performing a hashing function on said attribute string to form said <u>machine fingerprint</u>profile parameter.

21. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said customer computer potentially accesses said merchant web site by way of a proxy, <u>said</u> <u>process further comprising</u>and including the step of:

(a) said script communicating said <u>machine fingerprint</u> profile parameter and said transaction identification string to said archiver service web site using a protocol which bypasses said proxy.

22. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 16 <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u>and including the steps of:

(a)   said script communicating said profile parameter to said archiver service web site using a protocol other than HTTP.

23.   (Currently Amended)   A process as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said customer computer comprises ~~includes~~ a digital clock, and further comprising~~including the steps of~~:

(a)   said script causing said customer browser to query said clock for a time value; and

(b)   said script causing said customer browser to send said time value to said archiver service web site along with said machine fingerprint~~profile parameter~~.

24.   (Currently Amended)   A process for identifying a customer computer involved in an online transaction through a merchant web site between a customer using a customer browser operating on said customer computer and merchant who operates said web site, said method comprising the steps of:

(a)   coding a script request within a transaction form of said merchant web site;

(b)   processing said script request by said customer browser upon accessing said merchant web site to thereby communicate to an archiver web site of a machine data archiving service an electronic request for a machine data collection script;

(c)   said archiver web site returning said script to said customer browser along with a unique transaction identification string;

(d)   said customer browser processing said script to thereby cause said script to:

(1)   query said customer browser for a plurality of configuration settings;

(2)   form an attribute string from said plurality of configuration settings;

(3)   perform a hashing function on said attribute string to form a machine fingerprint of said customer computer~~said profile parameter~~; and

(4)   query an internal digital clock of said customer computer for a current time value.

(e)   said script causing said customer browser to communicate said machine fingerprint ~~profile parameter~~, said time value, and said transaction identification string to said archiver web site along with a conventional HTTP header;

(f)   said archiver web site storing said machine fingerprint~~profile parameter~~, said time value, and said transaction identification string in a machine data profile;

(g)   said script causing said customer browser to write said transaction identification string into said transaction form; and

(h)   upon said customer adding customer identification information to said transaction form and electronically submitting said transaction form to said merchant web site to thereby comprise a transaction record, said transaction identification string associating said transaction record with said machine data profile.

25.   (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 24 wherein said customer computer potentially accesses said merchant web site by way of a proxy, said process further comprising~~and including the steps of~~:

(a)   said script querying said customer computer for a second profile parameter; and

(b)   said script communicating said second profile parameter and said transaction identification string to said archiver service web site using a protocol which bypasses said proxy.

26.   (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in Claim 25 further comprising~~and including the step of~~:

(a)   said script communicating said second profile parameter to said archiver service web site using a protocol other than HTTP.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1 and 14 were discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 6,535,916 to Nguyen was discussed.

Proposed Amendments

Applicant proposed clarifications to the machine fingerprint aspect of the invention.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Applicant identified that none of the cited references appeared to disclose the concept of generating a machine fingerprint that comprises a hashed string of attributes associated with an access device.

Results of Interview

It was Applicant's understanding that the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments clarified the machine fingerprint aspect of the invention. It was also Applicant's understanding that the Examiner would conduct an additional search.